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29 April 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

C U R R E N T I N T E L L I G E N C E
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State Dept., JCS reviews completed

[Redacted]

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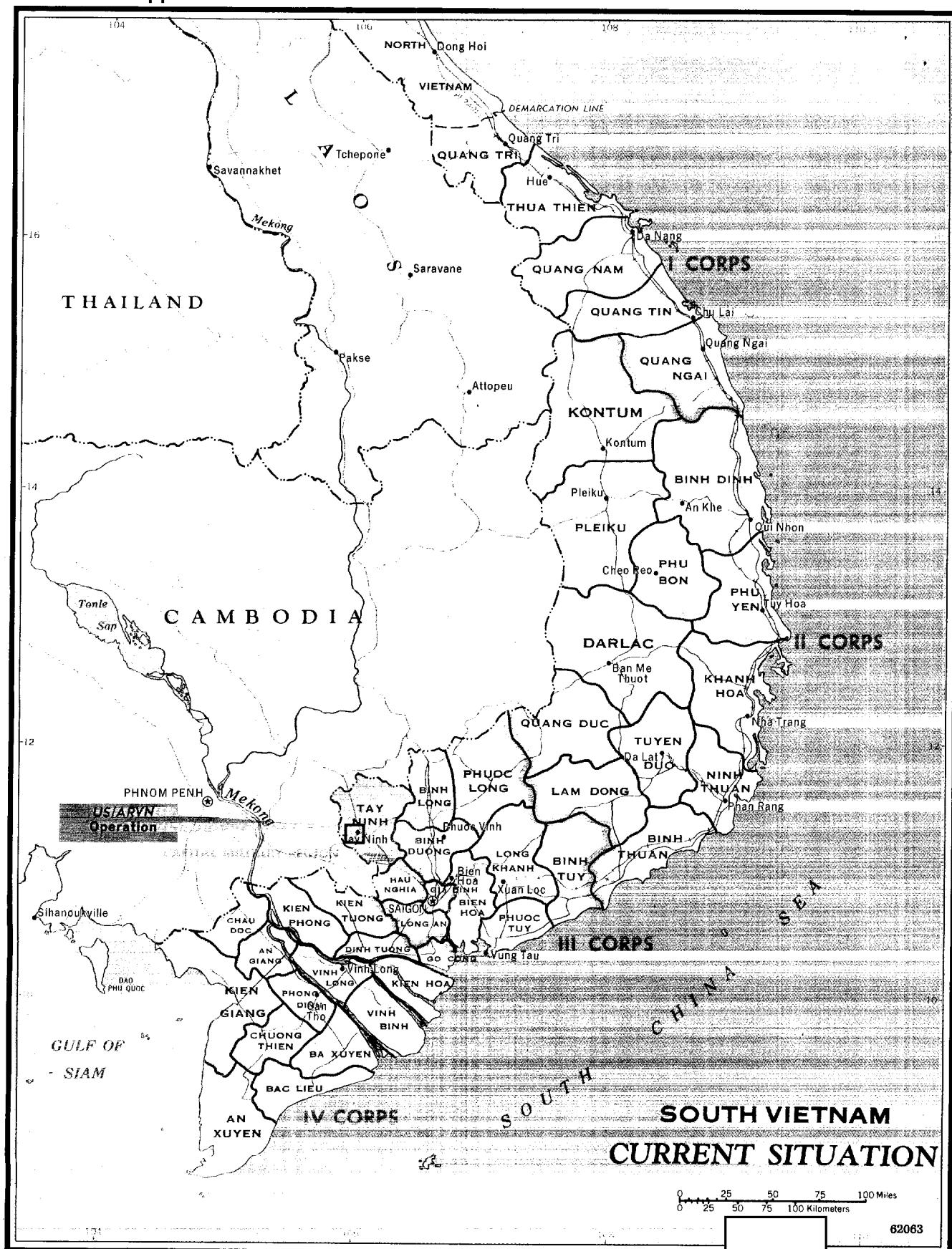
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

[Political Developments in South Vietnam: Rumors concerning an impending governmental shake-up are again circulating in Saigon.]

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[Unconfirmed rumors that Co and Quang are planning a move of their own for this weekend could represent an attempt to lay the groundwork for their dismissal. Although there is no other information to confirm that the ouster of Co and Quang is imminent, they have been targets of criticism by reform-minded field-grade officers, and their replacement has been periodically considered by other generals of the Directorate.]

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Substantial amounts of enemy foodstuffs, POL, and uniforms have been captured by US and ARVN troops during a sweep operation along the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province. The supplies were discovered in nine Viet Cong base camps overrun and destroyed by the allied forces. The operation is continuing, but only sporadic contact with the enemy has been reported in the past 24 hours.

[Military Developments in North Vietnam: The US Army, Pacific (USARPAC), which has the responsibility for producing the SECRET level order of battle on the north Vietnamese Armed Forces, now estimates total DRV military strength at about 450,000 men. This new

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figure includes the army, air force, navy, and armed public security forces and is based on evidence of mobilization available since 1965. The previous figure carried was about 315,000.]

{Presently, there is very little information on the formation of new units to incorporate the approximately 135,000 new inductees. A significant number of these inductees apparently have gone into the air defense sector of the military. In addition, USARPAC has also estimated that manpower available for the militia in North Vietnam has increased from two to three million.]

France-USSR: [An authoritative French source has disclosed some of De Gaulle's thinking about his June visit to the USSR.]

[According to the diplomatic counselor at the Elysee, De Gaulle will not sign a nonaggression or mutual assistance treaty. He sees the trip in a "historical" context, and as a way of contributing to his long-standing objective of working toward a detente in Europe. He will not abandon his classic position that Germany must be reunified through self-determination.]

[The source foresaw a general discussion of European problems that could lead to mention of a security conference limited to Europe in the final communique. The idea of such a conference was raised by Foreign Minister Gromyko when he was in Rome recently.]

De Gaulle will invite Kosygin and Brezhnev to visit Paris next fall.]

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UK-Rhodesia: [Exploratory talks between British and Rhodesian officials will begin soon in London, but a successful resolution of the conflict appears doubtful.]

[There are no indications that either side is willing to yield on the issue of Rhodesia's independence. London probably hopes that negotiations will forestall a confrontation in the UN resulting from African demands for sanctions against South Africa. The British feel that Prime Minister Smith has been concerned by Britain's success in blocking oil shipments through the port of Beira in Mozambique and by growing European unemployment in Rhodesia. In addition, sales of Rhodesian tobacco have been going slowly.]

[Both sides are likely to name their participants and soon set the date for the talks. Smith has agreed that, while the talks are in progress, the UK need not remove the staff from its mission in Salisbury, and classified communications will be permitted between London and Salisbury.]

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Greece: The immediate pressures on Premier Stephanopoulos' government have eased as a result of his defeating a no confidence motion early this week, but his basic position remains weak.

The four-vote victory over the motion offered by the Center Union (EK) and the crypto-Communist United Democratic Left did not put the government in a stronger position to pass long-pending legislation. Stephanopoulos is expected to move today for a quick adjournment of Parliament for its summer recess.

A 60-man parliamentary recess committee will handle unfinished legislative business during the recess, subject to confirmation by the full Parliament in the fall. The government's handling of the Cyprus issue and a measure to increase taxes will continue to be circumscribed by its narrow majority on the committee--only two.

Former premier Papandreu, the EK leader, also suffered a psychological blow in the censure debate in losing the support of two EK deputies. The consequent defeat of the motion could further weaken his hold on the party. His controversial son Andreas can be expected to intensify his efforts to take over the EK from his 79-year-old father.

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NOTES

USSR: An expected increase in the production of Soviet military and space hardware during the first quarter of 1966 seems to be borne out by analysis of the announced results for the ^{first quarter of 1966}. The rate of growth of industrial production was less than that of a year ago, but the output of machinery increased significantly over the level of 1965's first quarter. Within the machinery sector, moreover, the growth rates of many civilian items were off considerably, including the important categories of petroleum and chemical equipment, and many types of agricultural machinery. Finally, the lower rates of increase in investment for 1966 imply a reduction in the relative share of machinery production allocated to machine tools and other capital equipment.

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East Germany - West Germany: On 26 April two East German Communist (SED) officials were appointed to arrange the "technical conditions" for an exchange of speakers with the West German Social Democrats (SPD). The SPD had suggested earlier that Chairman Brandt and two deputy chairmen speak at an SED meeting to be held 9-13 May, while an SED delegation would be allowed to address an SPD meeting in Hanover the following week. It remains to be seen whether the two sides can find means for meeting the conditions each is trying to impose upon the other before such an exchange can come about.

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Sweden: The governing Social Democratic Party is under growing pressure from its influential left wing to adopt a more neutralist foreign policy. The first indication of the extent to which Prime Minister Erlander's government is willing to yield to this pressure will occur when the foreign minister addresses a May Day rally, the theme of which will be Vietnam. Socialist leaders may try to play domestic politics with this issue by holding out the possibility of diplomatic relations with Hanoi. This would serve to undercut the appeal in next fall's elections of Sweden's independent-minded Communist Party which has made deep inroads among the Socialist rank and file.

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Bolivia: Leftist labor and political elements may try to turn Sunday's May Day celebrations into violent antijunta demonstrations. In an effort to thwart such plans the junta on 27 April arrested a number of potential agitators on fabricated charges of coup plotting. Heavy-handed measures by the government could, instead of averting trouble, provoke it.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES

The United States Intelligence Board on 28 April 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimates:

NIE 87.2-66, "Guyana" [redacted]

NIE 86.2-66, "Prospects for Stability in the Dominican Republic" [redacted]

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Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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